

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

August 24, 1993

Mr. R. Tettenhorst
P. O. Box 14020
St. Louis, MO 63178

Dear Tett:

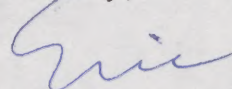
You have submitted a 1794 Breen 2 Half Cent to me for an opinion as to whether it is genuine. It is Lot #1 from the Bowers & Merena sale of 9/14/93. It is most unusual because it lacks any trace of edge lettering. It is in heavily worn and badly pockmarked condition on the reverse. Its obverse is smooth and well worn and somewhat pockmarked. Its specific gravity is normal. Whether the pockmarks result from a planchet made from a poorly cast copper bar or from a poorly rolled strip or from chemical exposure is difficult to determine because of the excessive wear thereafter. It shows no sign of being an electro or cast piece, and I do not know who would undertake to make a copy of such a miserable coin. It has normal color from long natural circulation.

It is always possible that a workman could fail to put a planchet through the Castaing machine.

In addition, however, the normal 1794 planchets were thicker than those of 1795. The submitted coin is thinner than customary 1794 pieces. Perhaps this is the result of a 1795 planchet ending up being struck with 1794 dies during the changeover period. It would then have no edge lettering. The 1795 planchets vary in source and in quality of preparation. Please compare this coin's thickness and weight with other 1794 pieces of the same variety to see if they differ. Then, compare it to other 1794 and 1795 pieces in general to see if that leads to a clearer conclusion.

Now it is your problem.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

mb

11/2/94

ERIC NEWMAN

The attached letter from Mike Packard contains an interesting commentary on the Cohen/Collins relationship, concerning which you obtained some material for me. I had written him asking what he knew about this relationship, since he was a close friend of Rogers.

Tett

FROM THE DESK OF BERNARD EDISON

October 24, 1994

R. Tettenhorst
P.O. Box 14020
St. Louis, MO. 63178

Dear Tett,

In your Aug 15 letter to me you asked about the relation between Roger and Jack Collins. I knew that there was no love lost between the two of them and that they occasionally exchanged rather vitriolic letters. I know, too, that Roger was accused of writing some letters that he did not write. I believe there were several reasons for their animosity. As you know, Roger and Walter did not always see eye to eye on half cant "facts". Roger felt Walter was often sloppy and too often presented his opinion as fact. Jack always defended Walter and his facts and Roger transferred some of his disregard for Walter to Jack as a result. Jack also lived a lifestyle that Roger strongly disapproved of. Once the negative letters started, they continued. I'm sure there were other reasons for Jack & Roger being on bad terms, but I was not aware of the specifics.

I've added only a lower grade 1809 C-1 to my collection since EAC. I've not seen too many pieces

that I need and wanted in the past 6 months. I
haven't added any Mass copper at all.

I've decided to finish the '94's at the 1995 Half Cent
Happening (C-6a, b + C-7), along with 1804 C-6 (by
request), and 1809 C-4 and C-6. Please let me know
if that meets with your approval. Obviously, I'm
assuming you and your coinz will be there. If
you know you can't make it, I'll substitute '93
C-2 + 3 for the '94's. I know you have nice '93's, but
those '94's - Wow!

I hope all is going well with you, Marilyn, and
Davey and with your daughter and family. Take care,

Yours,

Mike

Packard

Subj: Reply to data
Date: 6/23/98 4:56:01 PM Central Daylight Time
From: rmanley@salisbury.net (rmanley)
Reply-to: rmanley@salisbury.net
To: HalfCent@aol.com

EPN

Greetings Tett,

Several things. First, my mailing address for the Craig Sholley correspondence is: Ron Manley, 114 Polo Drive, Salisbury, NC 28144. My phone number FYI is (704) 638-0747. Thanks again for the reverse rotation data. It was very helpful.

I have some unfortunate news: I have concluded that Cohen:278 (your 1809 C-5 coin with the apparent obverse cuds) must be an altered early die state coin. I discussed this on the phone this A.M. with Bob Grellman who is editing my book manuscript. Therefore, I will not list this coin as a unique example of the "terminal" die state. My reasons for this conclusion are summarized as follows: (1) It is extremely improbable that a die would break simultaneously forming two large cuds and a smaller one without pre-existing cracks in the areas of the breaks. (2) The coin's weight is suspiciously low: 72.84 grains rather than about 84 grains. (3) The coin's reverse (as seen from the Cohen sale plate and photos by Frank Wilkinson) shows the lower ribbon at 6:00 to be well-struck. Dentilation is evident from about 4:30 to 9:00. True LDS 1809 C-5 specimens are from heavily lapped dies and, as a result, the lower ribbon is very weak even on uncirculated specimens. Lapping also removes most of the dentilation. Typical high grade LDS specimens have dentilation on the reverse only from about 5:30 to 8:00. (4) You reported your coin with a normal 12:00 reverse alignment. This is the same as found for EDS 1809 C-5 specimens. LDS 1809 C-5 specimens with lapped dies are found with a CW-rotated reverse around 12:45.

an interesting analysis of a coin I bought out of the sale by Superior of Roger Cohen's collection. Previously considered a unique example of a terminal die state, it now appears to be an alteration.

Bob Grellman said I should mention why I am omitting this 1809 C-5's "die state" from my book so that readers will know that it's not an oversight. I would like to write up my comments about this coin for Penny-Wise but I will do so ONLY if you give me your permission to do so.

I told him that of course he could write it up.

If you are not too upset with me, I'd like your assistance once again. Briefly, I was quite surprised that the "gripped edge" 1797 C-3c half cents in your collection have a different rotation from that of "plain edge" and "lettered edge" 1797 C-3 coins. Perhaps, this is due to different die states for the "gripped edge" coins. You reported three "gripped edge" coins all rotated CW about 12:15. I am aware of plain and lettered edge coins ONLY having a CCW rotation of about 11:30. Tett, could you check your 1797 C-3a and C-3b specimens to see if any of them share the same rotation as you reported for 1797 C-3c? This is a real mystery to me at this point.

Finally, regarding the issue of the status of thin planchet lettered edge half cents. I am not currently aware of 1793-1794 lettered edge specimens (other than the six you reported) within the weight range of 80 to 89 grains. If you have access to a scale or balance, it would be great if you could take it to the next EAC convention to weigh early half cents. If a notice is placed in the P-W before the convention there might be dozens or

even hundreds of early date half cents whose weights could be determined. This, hopefully, would resolve the status of these curious light-weight coins.

You didn't reply whether you checked your 1831 C-1 half cent(s) for the 1832 C-1 reverse crack. If you did check, what (may I ask) did you find? Sorry for such a long note.

Ron

R. TETTENHORST

220 NORTH FOURTH STREET

SUITE A

ST. LOUIS, MO 63102

June 18, 2008

Mr. Jan Valentine
2966 Soscol Ave., 76
Napa, CA 94558

Dear Jan:

Some further information regarding Colonel Green's collection. I have been told that B.G. Johnson, here in St. Louis, did not sell numismatic material to Colonel Green directly as Green's chief source was Wayte Raymond. After Green died, then Johnson, with Eric Newman, bought much of the Green numismatic collection.

Green's enormous South Dartmouth, Massachusetts summer home is still there. I am told that talks about Green are being given by Peter Huntoon.

I am glad you have a leather bound Mehl book of the Dr. French holdings. That is an important item.

Sincerely,

mb

Tett

bc: EPN

Subj: **Fwd: EAC Auction**
Date: 3/30/2010 5:20:39 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: HalfCent@aol.com
To: Ericnumis@aol.com

Eric: Bob Grellman, who is usually meticulously accurate, made a mistake in the catalogue for the EAC Sale ! - - -

-----Original Message-----

From: HalfCent@aol.com
Date: Tue, 30 Mar 2010 17:55:35 EDT
Subject: EAC Auction
To: ljefferys@cfl.rr.com

Bob: I received my catalogue today, which is as usual a fine piece of work. However I must reluctantly point out what I believe is a complete misattribution. Lot 127 is a regular 1856 half cent, not a Judd 177 copper-nickel pattern, IMHO. For one thing, it is entirely too well struck up. I spent years looking for a fully struck up specimen without ever seeing one or hearing of one. (Thank you for the excellent photographs !)

Also the weight is wrong. If you will look at your notes on my four specimens you will see that they all weigh close to 70 grains, not the 84 grains of lot 174. (Thank you for giving the weight !) Both Breen and Cohen 2nd edition give the 70-72 grain weight as standard for the patterns.

Do you have access to a facility which could test the composition ? If I am wrong, which Marilyn will confirm happens with some regularity, I would be very interested in acquiring a copper-nickel pattern so well struck and of such anomalous weight.

I am willing to bring this to your attention because I felt confident you would want to know.

Marilyn and I are looking forward to seeing you and Laurie at EAC.

Regards, Tett